

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 34-40, 48-55, and 63-71; claims 27-33, 41-47, and 56-62 have been canceled without prejudice; new claims 75-92 have been added. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 34-40, 48-55, 63-71 and 75-92 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 28-31, 35-45, 49-60 and 64-70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Salkini, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,912,230). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled claims 28-31, 41-45, and 56-60 without prejudice. Claims 35-40, 49-55, and 64-70 have been amended to depend from an allowable base claim. Therefore, this rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot. Allowance of claims 35-40, 49-55, and 64-70 is respectfully requested.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 32-33, 46-47, 61-62, and 72-74 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salkini, *et al.* in view of Le, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,556,820). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled the claims 32-33, 46-47, 61-62, and 72-74 without prejudice. Therefore, this rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot.

4.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claims 34, 48, 63 and 71. As the Examiner has suggested, claims 34, 48, 63, and 71 have been rewritten in independent form including all limitation of the base claims and any

intervening claims. Therefore no amendments have been made to narrow the scope of the pending claims or to create any sort of estoppel.

5.) New Claims

New Claims 75-92 are allowable at least by virtue of depending from an allowable base claim. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Bethea, Jr
Registration No. 53,987

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Ericsson Inc.
6300 Legacy Drive, M/S EVR 1-C-11
Plano, Texas 75024

(972) 583-4859
thomas.bethea.jr@ericsson.com